2001. Pages 1-5a are marked "AMENDED SHEET" and are attached hereto. Following the substitution of the above pages, please amend the specification as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please substitute claims 1-16 as originally filed, which appear on pages 18-22, with claims 1-14 as filed in the Article 34 amendment of 2 November 2001. The pages containing claims 1-14 are marked "AMENDED SHEET" and are attached hereto. Following the insertion of claims 1-14, please amend the claims as follows:

Please amend claims 3-9, 11 and 13 as follows:

--3. (amended) Device according to claim 1, **characterised in that** the respective second refractive means (2_k) of the k element pairs (55_k) are positioned adjacent to each other, forming a second group, the respective second refractive means (2_k) in the second group being in physical contact.--

--4. (amended) Device according to claim 2, **characterised in that** the respective first and second refractive means (2_k, 4_k) of the k element pairs (55_k) are positioned symmetrically on respective sides of the first element pair (55_0).--

--5. (amended) Device according to claim 1, **characterised in that** the refractive index (n_k) of the first refractive means (2_k) and the second refractive means (4_k) of a specific pair of the k element pairs (55_k) is substantially equal.--

--6. (amended) Device according to claim 1, **characterised in that** spaces between the first refractive means (2_k) and the second refractive means (4_k) of each of the k element pairs (55_k) are filled with a predetermined medium having a predetermined refractive index (n_0).--

--7. (amended) Device according to claim 1, **characterised in that** the device further comprises first control means for moving the first refractive means (2_k) and the second refractive means (4_k) of at least one of the k element pairs (55_k) with respect to each other, the direction of movement being perpendicular to a line of intersection of the input surface and output surface of the first refractive means (2_k).--

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--8. (amended) Device according to claim 1, **characterised in that** the first and second refractive means (2_k, 4_k) are formed by a first and a second prism (2, 4; 3, 5), respectively.--

--9. (amended) Device according to claim 1, **characterised in that** the device (1) further comprises additional means (35, 36) of a dispersive material for applying a chromatic correction to the optical beam, in which the dispersive material has a refractive index which is different from the refractive index (n_k) of the first and second refractive means (2_k, 4_k) of the first pair (55_0) and plurality of further pairs (55_k).--

--11. (amended) Interferometer having a first input plane and a second input plane for receiving at least a first and a second optical beam and an interference plane for letting the at

A3

A3 cont'd

least first and second optical beam interfere, a first optical path being formed from the first input plane to the interference plane and a second optical path being formed from the second input plane to the interference plane,

comprising optical path delay means for introducing an optical path difference between the first optical path and the second optical path, **characterised in that** the interferometer further comprises at least one achromatic phase shift device according to claim 1, positioned in at least one of the first optical path and the second optical path.--

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--13. (amended) Interferometer according to claim 11, **characterised in that** the interferometer comprises main control means for maintaining the phase shift (Ψ_0) between the at least first and second beam at a predetermined value, the main control means being connected to the optical path delay means (26, 27), and the first control means.--

REMARKS

Claims 3-9, 11 and 13 have been amended to eliminate multiple dependencies.

The substitution of claims 1-14 and pages 1-5a of the specification has been done to merely place this national phase application in into the same condition as it was during Chapter II of the International Phase.